

## Quinnipiac River Watershed Association

January 29, 2010

Paul E. Stacey  
Department of Environmental Protection  
Bureau of Water Protection & Land Reuse  
Planning & Standards Division  
79 Elm Street  
Hartford, CT 06106-5127

BUREAU OF WATER PROTECTION AND LAND REUSE  
OFFICE OF THE BUREAU CHIEF  
FEB 03 2010

Dear Mr. Stacey:

For the past 30 years the Quinnipiac River Watershed Association has had every challenge possible to overcome a polluted and impaired river. It is evident from the presence of bald eagles, osprey nesting, and other wildlife that the Quinnipiac River is recovering from pollution, and with our fish stocking and paddle programs local residents are enjoying water activities.

The Quinnipiac River Watershed Association supports the need for Streamflow Regulations but with an amendment to remove a class 4 from its proposed categories.

The Streamflow Regulations that are being proposed places a real concern that the Quinnipiac River with its past history will fall into a Class 4 as a "condemned river", that would mean it would receive no protection.


No river should be classified into a throw away category; the water belongs to all of the people in the state of Connecticut – our state is water rich, and there is no reason with proper dialog and planning that both humans and wildlife can't survive; one should not be sacrificed over the other.

It is true we experience low flows in the summer and early fall and we already know that is harmful to our fish and wildlife; now just imagine even less water being prevented to flow during peak times when fishing, canoeing and kayaking are in season.

Every year QRWA offers paddling programs to the general public and to youths and young adults through grant programs. Last year on one of those trips I walked a good portion of the five mile course with my kayak tied to a rope, like walking a dog on a leash because the water level was too low to paddle my way through. Now imagine less water flow.

[WWW.QRWA.ORG](http://WWW.QRWA.ORG)

290 Pratt Street • Meriden, CT 06450 • (203) 237-2237

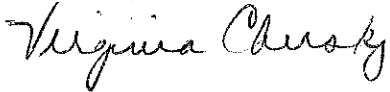
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For years DEP has worked with QRWA providing us with grant money for programs and events that bring awareness and education to communities and protection of our wildlife and yet, we may be faced with no way to protect the habitat in which they live.

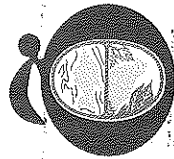
DEP has worked with us to install a fishway in Wallingford so migratory fish can spawn; we have provided restoration of native vegetation and thousands of volunteers have invested their time to remove debris from the river. What about our annual fish stocking efforts and the past five years we spent on our restoration project to convert the old Dossin Beach Bathhouse in Meriden, CT to a regional environmental educational center; are we really going to throw the baby away with the bath water?

The Quinnipiac River Watershed Association strongly objects to sacrificing any river, even urban ones like the Quinnipiac. The Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection should delete Class 4.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Virginia Chirsky".

Virginia Chirsky  
President, QRWA

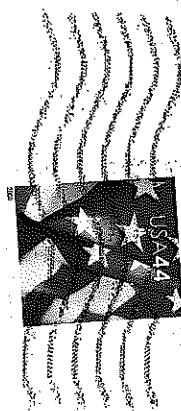


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